
JOURNAL OF THE BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

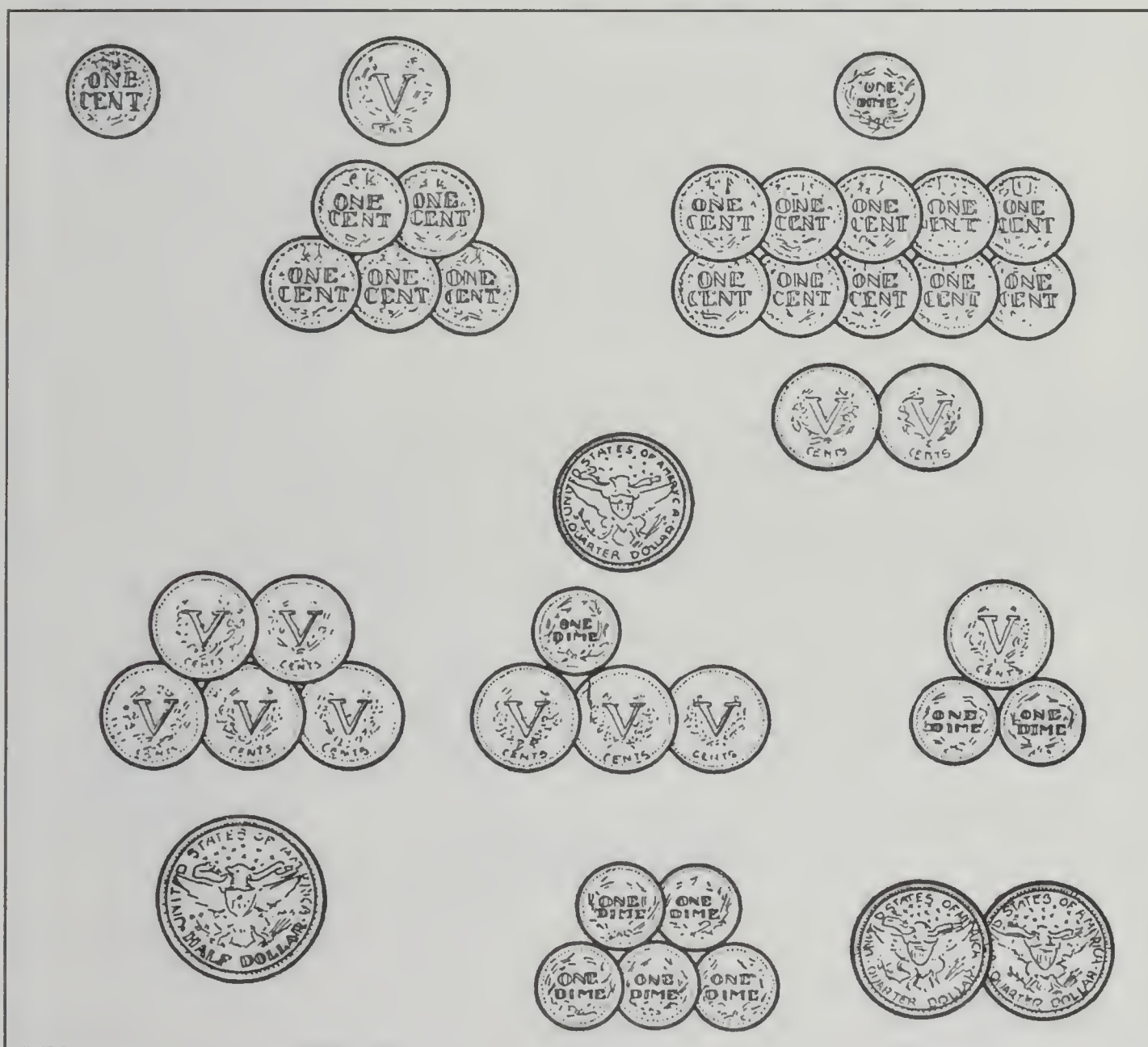
Volume 17

Number 2



2006

A Lesson Plan



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Submitted by Clint Kucera

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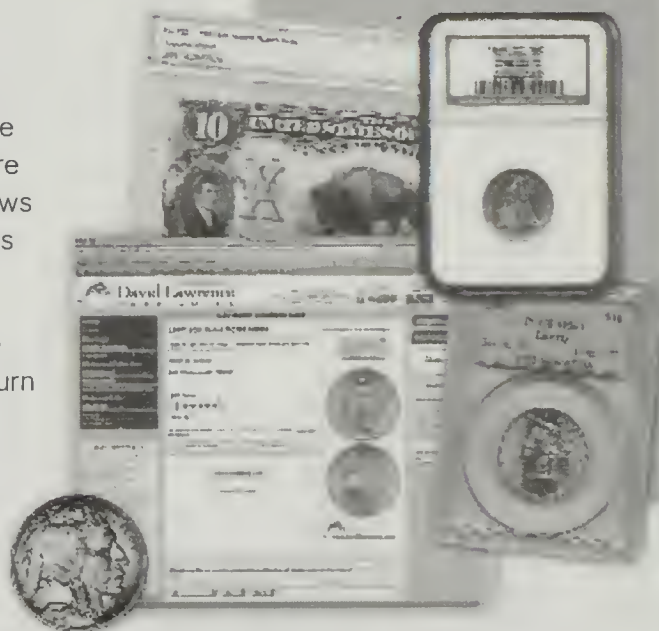
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JOURNAL OF THE BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

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Eileen Ribar.....*Editor, BCCS Journal,*
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Welcome to the Barber Society Spring issue for 2006.

Apparently, the coin market is doing well. I'm sure this message is widely written. I just read the May issue of the *Coin Dealer* newsletter (Grey Sheet) which tells this viewpoint rather effectively. It speaks to dealers looking for 'fresh' material and the difficulty of replenishing inventory. All this is very well understood. Last issue I spoke of the auction scene and I wish to do this again. Heritage conducts the Long Beach sale and has many great coins there. And you ask about Barbers? Great Barbers for sure, but I'll mention one area in the catalog which caught my eye: Barber Quarters 1896-S MS-65, turn the page to another 1896-S MS-65, another page and another 1896-S in MS-65, and all are certified by PCGS or NGC. They will have been sold (on June 2) when you read this, but I'll report prices realized in the next BCCS issue.

Are \$40,000+ coins what the Barber Society is all about? For some possibly, though not for the majority of our members. Putting together a G-VG set of any Barber series (five cents to half dollar) is a formidable task, one filled with usually years of searching, learning and meeting other collectors. While I don't own a MS-65 1896-S quarter, I enjoy looking at the pictures. (Some call this eye candy!)

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find details of the BCCS annual meeting at the American Numismatic Association Convention. This is also called the World's Fair of Money and will be held in Denver at the Convention Center. Is this a big event? Should you attend? Should you bring the entire family? Yes to these questions you may ask. If you need details, look at the ANA website: www.money.org and you'll find everything you need to know. We will look forward to seeing you Saturday, August 19th at 9:00AM in Room 705. As to the family, they will enjoy parts of the convention and will also get into the "Rocky Mountain High."

A few months ago, I received an email from a stranger asking about a Barber dime. This message came through the adult daughter of a woman who collects (casually) Barber coins. Eileen will do her best effort at printing a remarkable photo of a (worn) 1914 dime with a surprising reverse.

John Frost (webmaster) and Steve Szczerbiak (variety coordinator) have looked at this photo. Together, we submit the coin is a 'freak' and wouldn't deceive anyone. There are no obvious tooling marks at the mintmark and the overall coin

(mintmark included) shows uniform wear. One interesting speculation (by Steve) is that this coin is a practice piece leading to a possible 1895-O alteration. (Note: an 1895-P dime is too valuable to use for practice.)



I have attempted to convince the owners to submit the coin for examination, however, they wish to avoid mailing this and are not near any national coin show. Thus, the question here is: What do you think this coin is all about? Please email me with your ideas or comments. I'll forward them to John and Steve, and share the status with the membership next issue.



Numismatic regards,
Phil Carrigan
philrph1892@cs.com

THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Remember your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS Sept. 1st



BCCS EDITOR'S MESSAGE

There are three things I want to address at this time. First, I must make a correction regarding the photo featured on the cover of the Vol. 17, No. 1 *Journal*. The “unidentified FUN official” shown with John Frost turns out to be Bill Cowburn who had recently joined BCCS. After receiving his Vol. 17, No. 1 issue, Bill identified himself in an email and explained that while he was wearing many badges at the time, that was because he was an educational exhibitor, a judge, and an educational speaker at the FUN Show. He does not have any official connection to FUN except that he is a regular member.

Second, the articles by Paul M. Green which appear in the *Journal* from time to time are reprinted from earlier issues of *Numismatic News*. As several of you have pointed out to me, the prices given are no longer realistic today. In an effort to make the information in Paul’s articles more useful to you, at the end of each future article, including the one featured in this issue, I will list the most current prices of the coins discussed as I find them in the *Numismatic News* “Coin Market.”

Third, a member had written to me a while ago asking if BCCS has a listing of all varieties for the Barber coins. It does not. While our *Journal* shares varieties found by our members, Dave Lawrence’s books are our major source of information. Dave’s books (one for each denomination) provide the best compilation of varieties. ANA members can purchase or borrow the books from the ANA library. Walter Breen’s reference book, *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*, also lists some Barber varieties. Kevin Flynn has published books on Barber coinage as well.

Many thanks to Clint Kucera for submitting the cover “lesson plan” taken from an old children’s book which used illustrations of current (for that time period) coins to teach children about making change. Clint thought it was neat. So do I.

I wish you all a safe, enjoyable summer. If you’re vacationing in another part of the country, you might think about visiting the local curiosity shop, antique dealer or coin store. You never know what you may find. If you do come across anything interesting, please share your discovery with us.



BARBER OR LIBERTY HEAD QUARTER 1916 D MINT MARK VARIETIES

By Frank J. Colletti

As popular as the Barber quarter series is today, there is still a lot of research that is needed regarding the varieties that are included in the series. In fact, for every repunched mint mark (RPM's) and repunched date that is known, there are probably many more currently in collections that have not been identified. One date that has been studied, but needs further review, is the 1916 D and its repunched mint marks. This article will only review the possibilities concerning the RPM's for the 1916 Denver quarter.

Walter Breen wrote in his opus, *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*, about many different varieties. A check of the Barber quarter section shows two photos of two different repunched mint mark varieties for the 1916 D. The first is a D/D (Breen-4223) Double D. Breen's description states that the variety has: "Parallel uprights and curves of 2 D's (l. and r.) on early (die) states."

In addition, this variety is also mentioned in David Lawrence's reference (*The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters, 2nd Edition*). However, although the photo used by Lawrence is of a higher grade coin, the angle that was used does not enable the reader to accurately observe and compare the repunched mint mark. (Lawrence reference No. 101). Flynn refers to this as RPM-001 and Flynn's example is clearer.

As you can see from the accompanying photo (Photo 1) of the variety, the inner space of the dominant 'D' clearly shows the curve of the right portion of the mint mark. There is no mention by either Breen or Lawrence of the location of a piece with traces of the mint mark to the left of the 'D.' It would appear that the remnants of the original mint mark were either punched very lightly into the die or the left side of the mint mark was completely removed from the die by the workers at the time.



Photo 1

In addition, it is possible, again view Photo 1, that the mint mark used was a smaller one. Perhaps it was meant for use on another denomination (most likely that for a dime). A careful look at the curvature of the inner 'D' shows a sharp slope, particularly on the south portion of the curve. This should only have been as a result of a smaller letter punch.

On the piece shown, in Very Good condition, the mint mark is clear, along with the inner remnants of the other 'D.' (Note: all of the attached microphotographs were taken with a magnification of 60 X, which was the clearest resolution that I was able to obtain.) As stated by Breen, the "(p)arallel uprights and curves of 2 D's (l. and r.) on early (die) states" are clearly visible.

A later die state, per Breen "... (RPM 1) show uprights blurred together." (Photo 1 again) The photo of this piece (Good-6) accurately describes the condition that Breen refers to in his reference. However, look carefully at the curvature of the inner 'D' and compare the spacing to the right as compared to the spacing on the RPM-1 Breen illustrates. There appears to be less space from the curvature to the right side of the inner curve of the 'D.' Since wear alone, either to the die or the coin, cannot close or open a gap, is it possible that this is really a different, similar, repunched mint mark? Only the examination of two high grade specimens will be able to settle the matter.



Photo 1

One note: it is possible that this is another variety of a RPM, since none of the above references refer to the tiny dimple that is visible in the center of the curve, to the left.

Next, the Lawrence No. 102 RPM (also known as Breen 4224) should be carefully examined. In both of their illustrations, there is a clear re-punching to the mint mark, along with something (?) attached to the eagle's tail feathers. Lawrence simply refers to this as a "high mint mark." However, Breen states "the small D (proper punch for the dime) was first entered too low and leaning r., then the larger punch higher and leaning l...what is touching the tail is uncertain."

I was recently able to acquire a low grade (VG-8) specimen for examination. Viewing the mint mark under the same 60 X magnification shows that this piece may be a very early die state of the variety. As shown in Photo 2, there is

a clear repunching of the mint mark. The first punch of the 'D' is what is touching the tail feathers. A notch may be seen near the bottom of the 'D' and it appears that the interior of the top (or second) 'D' is partially filled by the under mint mark. The top of the under mint mark is clearly touching the eagle's feathers and the answer may lie in the mint's work.



Photo 2

Perhaps the mint mark's defect was too obvious for the quality control people at the mint and was (at least) partially effaced from (or ground off) the die. As a result, later die states will only show the portion within the 'D' and the portion touching the eagle's tail feathers. The north portion may have been left alone because any attempt to further clean up the mint mark would probably have effected the eagle's tail feathers.

In this instance, the 'D' used appears to be the normal size punch, but seems to be smaller because of the removal of some of the traces from the die after a short period of use. Once again, only the study of a higher grade, early die state specimen will resolve the issue.

One further note about rarity. Breen relates that the above two varieties are extremely rare. Lawrence contradicts this with a comment that "the RPM's though clear and interesting, are not scarce and bring little or no premium." Further study is needed, but the truth appears to lie somewhere between the opinions of the two experts. Surely not extremely rare, they are certainly not common and should bring a premium. The only question is how much of a premium, and only the market can determine that.

Next I would like to introduce four previously unlisted (to my knowledge) RPM's for the 1916 D Barber quarter. First, the example shown is very close to the center left upright of the main 'D' (Photo 3). Clearly this is very different from any listed RPM in Flynn's reference. Although this is only a low grade example, the repunching is clear and

Photo 3



there is no evident damage to the area. Following Flynn's numbering system, this should be listed as RPM-009.

The next example (Photo 4) is more centered than any of the Flynn examples, and the curve is heavier than any of his illustrations. Although it is similar to the RPM-001 and RPM-002, it is clearly different. Again, although this is a low grade example, it has no damage to the area and is not cleaned. This piece should be designated as RPM-010.



Photo 4

Now, we can examine Photo 5. This clear RPM is far thicker than any of the examples that Flynn shows in his reference. The closest to this piece is his RPM #5, but that example is much farther to the right side of the inner curve of the 'D.' In this instance, the re-punching is closer to the left. In addition, the angle is clearly different. This piece should be designated as RPM-011.



Photo 5

Finally, Photo 6 shows a broken curve to the repunched inner curve and a thickness that is not displayed in any of the Flynn examples. His RPM-003 and RPM-004 both have apparent cuds that are filling in the area within the 'D' and to the right of the RPM. However, neither example shows an RPM that is 'broken' about three quarters of the way to the top of the inside curve and is blank from that point up. Clearly this is not listed and should be designated as RPM-012.



Photo 6

In reviewing the photos and examples for the above article, I re-examined the examples that I had put aside for further study. As a result, I feel that the attached piece, which I have designated RPM #13, should be added. As shown in Photo 7, the example shows a central 'D' mintmark with what appears to be an earlier punching of the 'D' at an angle on the left side of the photo. In addition, there is a clear notch at the top right side of the 'D' that seems to flow from the earlier first punch of the mintmark.



Photo 7

Although these are the only examples of each of the above noted RPM's that I have ever been able to locate, I do not feel that we have enough information to comment on the rarity of any of the pieces. I leave that to the members to decide upon.

Bibliography:

Breen, Walter, *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. And Colonial Coins*, F.C.I. Press Inc., Doubleday, New York, 1988.

Flynn, Kevin, *The Authoritative Reference on Barber Quarters, First Edition*, Brooklyn Gallery Stamps & Coins, Brooklyn, NY, 2005.

Lawrence, David, *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters, 2nd Edition*, DLRC Press, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 1994.



Barber Coin Collectors' Society Annual ANA Meeting
Denver, CO Convention Center
August 19, 2006 9:00 a.m. Room 705

Share Your Passion for Collecting Barber Coins

By **Dan Flood**

As is the case with many numismatists, my wife and son do not share the same passion that I have for collecting coins, specifically, Barber quarters and halves. In fact, both have little to no interest at all in my coin collecting hobby. When there's no one around to share your passion and enjoyment for these beautiful coins, this can make the hobby a very lonesome proposition.

When it came to purchasing new Barbers for my collection, I always followed the same old routine. I would consolidate all of my new coin purchases that were made over about a 2 to 3 week period and then proceed to drag my coins into work, where at lunch time I would pay a visit to my local safety deposit box. My new Barber coin purchases were never held or viewed "live" by anyone, other than myself, before being stashed away to the abyss of my safety deposit box never to be seen again.

After working at my company for some time, I became very friendly with a fellow who shared my passion for hiking and, as it turned out, collecting coins. From the early conversations that I'd had with Rick, it sounded like he was more of an accumulator than a true collector who had goals in mind for his collection. He mentioned owning a bunch of Walking Liberty half dollars, a single U.S. gold coin – a later date Eagle, and some other coins. Through our conversations on early U.S. coinage, I found Rick to be a very knowledgeable numismatist, much more knowledgeable than what his coin collection might suggest.

Rick soon learned of my passion for collecting Barber quarters and halves. He knew that I was working on completing sets of Barber quarters and halves, the majority being in the VF - XF grade range, with an occasional AU coin thrown in for good measure. Being unfamiliar with the nuances of the Barber series, whenever I discussed Barber coinage with him or talked about my latest Barber acquisition, he seemed to show a keen interest in the subject. Since this time, it's become apparent that what limited knowledge of Barber coinage I may possess, a lot of this knowledge has rubbed off on Rick.

My old routine suddenly had a new step put into it. Along with my coins, I also made it a point to bring in my magnifying glass to work. This way, Rick could get a better look at my latest acquisitions, before they headed off to the safety deposit box. I actually look forward now to this new ritual - having my coins cri-

tiqued, in hand, by someone else. He's very familiar with my tastes in Barbers and is very honest with his assessment of any coin that he views, (is the coin graded properly, does it have nice toning and eye appeal, does it have a decent strike, etc.).

If initially, I hadn't shared my passion for collecting Barber coins with Rick, this wonderful opportunity to share my hobby with someone else may never have come up. After viewing many of my circulated Barber quarters and halves, Rick had mentioned to me that he never realized how beautiful the design of these coins are, and how attractive nice, original examples can be. Who knows, if Rick gets into collecting coins on a more serious level, maybe we'll have another Barber fanatic on our hands.



BCCS Treasurer's Annual Report

Opening balance January 1, 2005	\$6791.87
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Receipts

Dues	2575.00	
Advertising	1170.00	
Back issues	77.00	
Bank interest	3.67	
Total		\$3825.67

Total funds available:	\$10,617.54
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Expenses

Journal production	1893.36	
Postage	726.36	
Literary prizes	90.00	
ANA dues	36.00	
Bank charges	180.00	
Total		\$2925.72

Closing balance December 31, 2004	\$7691.82
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The following was submitted as a "Letter to the Editor"

Barbers in General

By Joseph M. Cabral

I wanted to touch base with you as it relates to the article that you printed by Paul Green in the last [Vol. 16, No. 4] *Journal*. A brief note is as follows:

(1) One must be cognizant of the fact that he cannot obtain any of the scarce Barbers (any kind) for the prices that are listed in Paul's article. Coins in the Halves series ALWAYS cost more than current catalogue values. For example: an 1892-O Half will NEVER be secured for 160.00 dollars. The same will hold true for others that were listed in the article - say the 1892-S or 1893-S. Even coins with minor defects will cost more than the listed prices. Is it a reprint? [*Yes, as stated above the article's title, it was reprinted from the January 7, 2003 issue of Numismatic News*]

(2) Collectors need to be sure that they do not "commingle" facts with fiction. Even though many collectors make an assiduous effort to obtain rare dates, they will rarely be able to do so. All you have to do is attend some shows and you will NOT find key date Barber coins that are "problem-free." Even major shows will not yield "better dates" for most collectors. You see Barber Halves in AG-3 or MS-65; the middle grades just do not seem to appear.

(3) One time David Bowers (1981) told me that I should buy an 1896-S Half in F-15 because it was available. I did not want the coin, but I did buy it because it was original and on hand at the time. He told me that the time to buy a coin was when it could be obtained and not when you saved the funds to get it. This was good advice now and it made sense 25 years ago. I still have this coin and also all of the Barbers that I had purchased from his old firm.

(4) A person must extrapolate all of the data that he can from a wide variety of sources so that he can speak to the questions that he will ultimately be asked with respect to Barbers. Many years ago David Lawrence had a fine selection of Barbers, but they eventually dried up. Even though a collector can obtain Barbers from him, he or she has to look elsewhere in order to obtain nice circulated coins. The problem is that there are few, if any, to be had at any price. Mr. Lawrence told me that he loved Barbers and wanted to concentrate on circulated ones, but that he had to give up because of a lack of "fresh material." Lee Crane appeared to say

much the same (he has Barbers).

(5) Actions speak louder than words. Buy a good Barber every time you see one because you will need to have extras in order to trade for the ones that you will need. For example: I have several better dates in the Quarter series because I want to be able to exchange the duplicates for pieces that I need to have for my son's collection. It makes sense!

(6) I know some collectors who will never buy anything that is cleaned. In Barbers, you can buy cleaned ones so that they can be re-toned. This is not a bad thing to do if you know what you are doing. I have re-toned several Barber quarters and they look good and I never fail to get offers for them once the people actually see them. I never lie - I have told folks that the pieces were lightly cleaned by some well-meaning soul and that I took the time to try to "conserve" them. Many PNG dealers have "conserved" coins that they own and some never tell the general public about this.

(7) I have tried to cover some of the more salient points of information for you because I know that you do not collect Barbers yourself. The collector will almost always get in trouble if he uses terms like always, never, each, etc. The idea is to become more flexible as it relates to the task at hand. You are in the hobby to have fun and not simply to make money. Unless you own a great many Barbers, look at the situation as one in which you can enjoy yourself and still have time to "bond" with your children. Since I have a son and a daughter, I used collecting as a way in which each of them could become equal. One did not have to play with dolls and the other did not have to play sports. Each of them enjoyed taking the time to place their new coins in an album and then reflect on them. Since prices have gone way up, I know each of them will return to the hobby some day.

(8) I would like to see our *Journal* list the names of smaller "vest pocket" dealers who have Barbers to sell. Anyone who has Barbers to sell will always have a great many people around their tables at a show. When I discuss the fact that I collect Barbers (key dates), I always have collectors asking me when, and if, I am going to sell them my material.

(9) In the final analysis, one needs to take the time to get to know their fellow collectors so that they will be able to identify a "further source" of material for their collections. As people leave the hobby and/or pass away, the *Journal* can become a means of assisting families with collections and their disposal. One caveat - many people certainly have to trust one another and many probably would not.

Just musing!

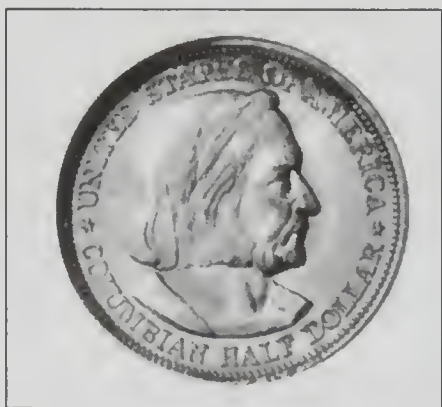
The Other Barbers, Part 4: Shared Designs

By John Dembinski

In this the fourth and final installment, let's look at more of Charles Barber's work, although at coins he did not design totally on his own, but in partnership with fellow mint employee George T. Morgan.

The first coin we will look at is the Columbian Exposition Half Dollar, America's first ever commemorative coin, which was minted in 1892 and 1893. In the *Coin World Almanac, 7th Edition*, page 339, credit for the design of the obverse of the half dollar is given to Mr. Barber with the reverse design the work of his assistant Mr. Morgan. However, in the *Coin World Comprehensive Catalog and Encyclopedia of United States Coins, 2nd Edition*, page 297, I quote: "Obv. Bust of Columbus, designed by Olin W. Warner and adapted without credit to this artist by Charles E. Barber." *A Guide Book of United States Coins, 55th Edition* ("The Red Book"), says on page 238 that the Half Dollar was "DESIGNED by Olin Lewis Warner. C.E. Barber ENGRAVED the obverse showing the bust of Columbus" (the emphasis is mine).

In my opinion, Mr. Warner actually designed the obverse, but was never fully credited for it. It seems Mr. Barber only engraved the coin's obverse design. Whatever the case may be, Charles Barber should at least be credited with engraving the beautiful design, a task that I'm sure was just as arduous as designing the coin itself.



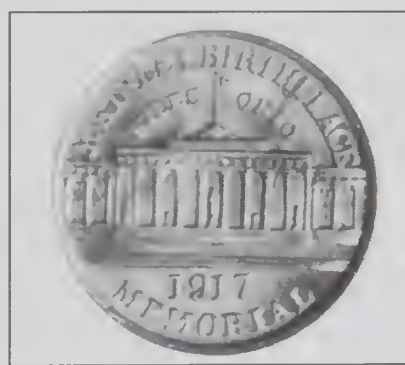
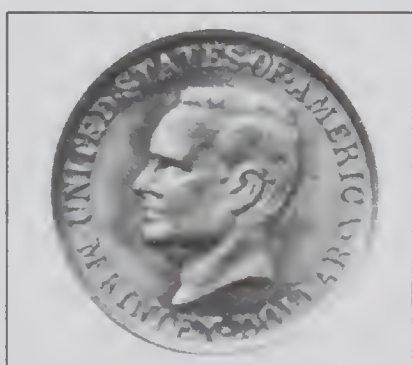
Original mintages for the 1892 and 1893 coins are: 1892: 950,000; 1893: 4,052,105, with 2,501,700 coins melted, for a net mintage of 1,550,405.

Current prices for the 1892 date range from \$28.00 in MS-60 to \$700.00 in MS-65. The 1893 date comes in at \$27.50 in MS-60 to \$950.00 in MS-65; not too great of a difference in prices, and yet still very affordable to the average collector.

The next coin I want to examine is the Panama- Pacific International Exposition Quarter Eagle of 1915. The obverse of this lovely little gold coin, designed by Mr. Barber, shows Columbia holding a caduceus (a winged staff carried by the mythological Roman god Mercury) in her left hand seated on a hippocampus (a sea monster with the head and forequarters of a horse and the tail of a dolphin or fish). Minted only in San Francisco with 6,749 pieces, a specimen in MS-60 will cost around \$2,100.00 while the same coin in MS-65 will run a whopping \$6,600.00, quite a bit more expensive than our previously mentioned half dollar.



And last but not least, let's have a look at the McKinley memorial gold dollars of 1916 and 1917. The Red Book says that "The sale of the McKinley Dollars aided in the paying for a memorial building at Niles, Ohio, the martyred President's birthplace." Mintage figures for 1916 are 9,977 pieces and 1917, just a few more, at 10,000 pieces. Prices for the 1916 date are \$705.00 in MS-60 and \$2,600.00 in MS-65. Prices for 1917 are \$845.00 in MS-60 to \$3,700.00 in MS-65. It is a nice, still affordable coin honoring our slain 25th President.



These articles have endeavored to show the excellent designs and artwork of Mr. Barber's "other" coins, some of which he designed entirely, and some of which he shared in the design. I hope you have enjoyed reading them.

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The U.S. Mint and Coinage, Don Taxay 1966, 1983

Coins Magazine, March 2006

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1904-S Barber Half Outshines Its Brethren

By Paul M. Green

The 1904-S Barber half dollar has an interesting story to tell. Its potential is clear just by looking at its mintage of 553,038, but that's only part of the story.

There were not many Barber half collectors in 1904, partly because saving half dollars involved a lot of money. Barber halves were minted in Philadelphia, San Francisco and New Orleans that year, and it was a lot of money to acquire the new dates each year.

Historically, many only collected by date, and not by date and mintmark, as in 1904 no cents or nickels were produced at any facility other than Philadelphia and they were the two most heavily collected denominations. That alone would make a date like the 1904-S better than its mintage would indicate.

If you examine Barber halves, you will see why there was little reason for the 1904-S to seem valuable. After all, the 1905 mintage at Philadelphia was 662,727 and the 1905-O mintage was even lower than the 1904-S at 505,000. If you examine the Barber half dollar dates from 1900 to the final production in 1915, there were six dates with lower mintages and a number of others with mintages of less than one million.

What is interesting today is that the 1904-S starts at just \$17 in G-4, which is an extremely reasonable price for such a low mintage date. By F-12, however, it is \$160. In VF-20 it jumps to \$420 and then has another big jump to \$780 in XF-40. In MS-60 it is \$2,250 and it is ten times more in MS-65 at \$22,500 - a big increase from the 1998 price of \$14,000.

The prices are not out of line considering the age and mintage of the 1904-S, but are higher than you might expect.

Remember, the 1905-O had a lower mintage than the 1904-S. It is just \$14 in G-4, \$730 in MS-60 and \$5,000 in MS-65. Those are some very sharp differences when you consider the two were made one year apart. Both were also branch mints and there should be no big price differences between San Francisco

and New Orleans issues.

The 1913 Barber half mintages are an even better test, as the Philadelphia had a mintage of just 188,627, while the Denver was 534,000 and San Francisco 604,000. In G-4, of the three, only the 1913 at \$20 is more than the 1904-S and the difference is not great. The 1913-D and 1913-S have very similar mintages to the 1904-S and they are \$9 and \$9.50, so the 1904-S is almost double their price levels.

In MS-60, the most expensive of the three 1913s is the Philadelphia at \$925 - less than half the price of the older and much greater mintage 1904-S. In MS-65, the Denver, which also had a lower mintage than the 1904-S, is \$4,650, but that hardly compares to \$22,500 and the other 1913s are even less.

It could be that half dollars were somehow destroyed in a great melting, making the 1913s more available, but the 1904-S also is more costly than the 1905-O. For some reason, the 1904-S, in virtually every grade, is more costly than similar and much lower-mintage Barber half dollars from the period.

One possible reason is the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. The city was destroyed, the banks where coins were stored were destroyed, homes and businesses were destroyed and the 1904-S had only been in circulation less than two years. Moreover, coins made back then in San Francisco tended to stay close to home.

We cannot say with certainty, but the 1906 disaster is the one unique thing that occurred that can explain the higher prices of the 1904-S.

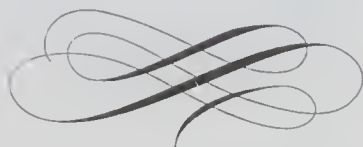
Editor's note: The following chart gives a comparison of the prices quoted for the dates, mintmarks, and grades mentioned in Paul Green's August 26, 2003 article and those given in the May 2006 *Numismatic News* "Coin Market."

<u>August 2003 article</u>	<u>May 2006 "Coin Market"</u>
1904-S in G-4 - \$17.00	\$38.50
in F-12 - \$160.00	\$260.00
in VF-20 - \$420.00	\$550.00
in XF-40 - \$780.00	\$1075.00
in MS-60 - \$2250.00	\$6250.00
in MS-65 - \$22,500.00	\$37,500.00

August 2003 article

May 2006 "Coin Market"

1905-O in G-4 - \$14.00	\$30.00
in MS-60 - \$730.00	\$760.00
in MS-65 - \$5000.00	\$5250.00
1913 in G-4 - \$20.00	\$70.00
MS-60 - \$925.00	\$1150.00
1913-D in G-4 - \$9.00	\$17.00
in MS-65 - \$4650.00	\$5250.00
1913-S in G-4 - \$9.50	\$22.00



BARBER BITS

Barber Coin Collectors' Society
Annual ANA Meeting
Denver, CO Convention Center
August 19, 2006
9:00 a.m., Room 705

Letter to the Editor

I received an unexpected surprise in the mail today - a \$50.00 check for 1st place in the BCCS Literary Contest. I want to thank you, the rest of the BCCS editorial staff, and all the BCCS members who voted for my article. I really enjoyed writing the articles for the BCCS and hope to contribute with more articles in the future.

Thanks and regards,
Dan Flood

Here are several more 2004 End-of Year Member Survey responses to the question "What are your three favorite Barbers?"

Keith Johnson -

1. 1895-P 10c - it's old (pre-1900), it's hard to find better than G-4, and it's from Philadelphia
2. 1905-O micro O 10c - New Orleans Mint ('nuff said), cool variety
3. 1913-P 25c - it's silver, < 90 years old, has almost the same mintage as the 1909-S V.D.B. cent, and it is absurdly cheap by comparison to the 1909-S V.D.B. cent

Tom Peifer: 1896-S dime - this should be an R12 in XF-AU!

Dave Batterberry -

- 1901-S 25c - I've been searching for an original VF example for almost 20 years. Available in grades below VG; a monster in Fine/Extra Fine!
- 1905-O, 1906-O 25c - difficult in original condition in Fine-EF. Undervalued and under appreciated in my book. My two favorite "sleepers."

Ralph Vignola -

My 3 favorite Barber coins are the 1913-S dime, very hard to find in Fine and above, a true sleeper; the 1905-O half dollar, another very difficult coin to find in Fine and above; and the 1914-P half dollar which over the years I have found very, very few in VG and above. I am sure that there are others, but these are my favorites. I have a complete set of all Barber coins in VG to F.

Fred Flug -

1. 1892-O micro O Barber Half grade AG-03 - I finally found one at a time when I could afford it. I got it from an old gentleman from Skip Rock, PA. He found it in a box with two other normal '92-O halves at an estate sale. What are the odds?
2. 1895-O dime Grade XF/AU - It's the most valuable thing I own (except for my car)! It's very well struck with light pretty tone. Will make a great gift for the grandkids in the coming years.
3. 1913 Quarter grade VF - It's the most pleasing coin to look at. Original coloring and wear with no distracting marks. Must have sat in a drawer for many years. I enjoy it the most of all my Barber quarters.

Dan Cassin -

- 1901-S 25c
1913-S 25c
1895-O 10c All tough coins

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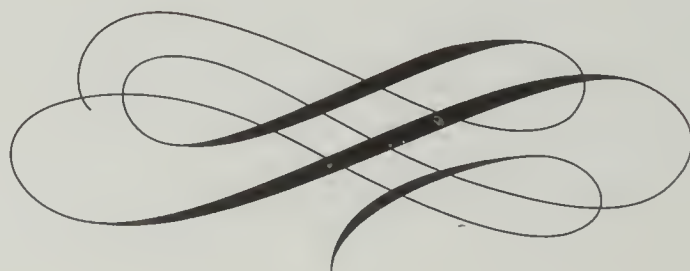
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